

### Remarks

The Office Action dated December 13, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendments are submitted in consequence thereof.

Applicants previous response indicated that claims 47-88 were added to the application, although this indication was in error. The Preliminary Amendment dated September 22, 2005 did not include claims numbered 74-77. The claims have been accordingly renumbered herein and have been amended appropriately to correct the numbering in the errors in the claims. Applicants regret any confusion or inconvenience associated with the numbering errors in the claims.

Claims 47-87 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 47, 61 and 74-84 have been amended, and of which claims 85-87 are newly added. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

Regarding the Election of Species requirement, a restriction to either species Group I, drawn to the handle shown in Figure 1; species Group II, drawn to the handle shown in Figure 8; and species Group III, drawn to the handle with a locking mechanism shown in Figures 12-16, was imposed. In response, Applicants elect, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of species Group III. Claims 47-87 are submitted to be generic to the identified species.

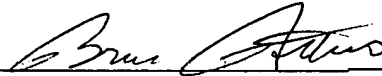
Considering that each of the independent claims recites a lockable towing handle, the independent claims 47, 61, and 74 are generic to the elected species of Group III. Additionally, because none of the dependent claims delineates between the handle shown in Figures 1, 12, and 16, all of the dependent claims 48-60, 62-73 and 75-84 and newly added claims 85-87 are also submitted to be generic to the species of Group III. Applicants therefore elect Group III and respectfully submit that claims 47-87 read on Group III.

Express Mail No.: EV 679302386 US

PATENT  
Atty. Dkt. No.: 10759-159

The pending claims are believed to define patentable subject matter. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bruce T. Atkins", is written over a horizontal line.

Bruce T. Atkins, Reg. No.: 43,476  
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP  
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740  
(314) 621-5070